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# **Gender-responsive climate action: Why and How**

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# OUTLINE

- ▶ Part I: Normative Foundation
  - ▶ Part II: Climate Change Impacts
  - ▶ Part III: The Climate Change Process
    - Integrating a gender perspective
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# Headline Messages

- ▶ Normative foundations seek to realize the **human rights of all** and to achieve **gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls**
- ▶ Women and girls experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; Structural inequalities constrain women and girls' responses to climate change
- ▶ The climate change process **provides a promising example of** integrating a gender perspective in a “technical” / non-social thematic area

# Normative Foundations

- ▶ **Rio Declaration** on Environment and Development
  - Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their **full participation is essential** to achieve sustainable development.
- ▶ Chapter 24 of **Agenda 21**
  - Effective implementation of sustainable development programmes will depend on the **active involvement of women** in economic and political **decision-making**.
- ▶ **CEDAW** – Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
  - The full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the **maximum participation of women** on equal terms with men in all fields
- ▶ The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women** (Concluding Observations on State Party reports):
  - underscored that “All stakeholders should ensure that climate change and disaster risk reduction measures are **gender-responsive**, sensitive to indigenous knowledge systems and **respect human rights**.”
  - Women’s right to **participate at all levels of decision-making** must be guaranteed in climate change policies and programmes.”

# 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- ▶ **Grounded** in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- ▶ **Pledge** to “leave no one behind”
- ▶ **Vision**: a world of **universal respect for human rights** and human dignity, **justice, equality and non-discrimination**; of **respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity**;
- ▶ A world in which every woman and girl enjoys **full gender equality**
- ▶ Emphasized the **responsibilities of all States**, to respect, protect and promote human rights, without distinction of any kind;
- ▶ Highlighted **gender equality and women’s empowerment** and the **systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective** are crucial in the implementation of the Agenda
- ▶ **Follow-up and review processes** at all levels: will be **people-centred, gender-sensitive, respect human rights** and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind.

# Paris Agreement

## ▶ Preamble:

- ... Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on **human rights**, ... the rights of indigenous peoples, ... migrants, children, persons with disabilities and **people in vulnerable situations** and the right to development, as well as **gender equality, empowerment of women** and intergenerational equity

## ▶ Article 7

- Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, **gender-responsive**, participatory and fully transparent approach ...

## ▶ Article 11

- Capacity-building should be guided by lessons learned ... and should be an effective, iterative process that is **participatory**, cross-cutting and **gender-responsive**.

# Nexus approach for the SDGs

No SDG nor target on human rights, thus, HR  
is not at all captured

— Explicitly linked  
- - Substantially linked



— Explicitly linked  
- - Substantially linked

**1 NO POVERTY**



Gender sensitive development strategies, equal rights and access to resources and services for men and women (1.b, 1.4, 5.1)

**2 ZERO HUNGER**



Nutritional needs adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, increase income female small scale food producers, end discrimination in all forms (2.2, 2.3, 5.1)

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**



Universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights (3.7, 5.6)

**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**



eliminate gender disparities in education, education on gender equality, gender sensitive learning environments, literacy, end discrimination (4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4b, 5.1)

**16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS**



end discrimination, reduce violence against women and girls (5.1, 5.2, 16.1)

**13 CLIMATE ACTION**



Raise capacity for climate change planning and management including focusing on women (13.b)

Access to public transport and public space with particular attention to women (11.2, 11.7)

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**



Social, economic and political inclusion irrespective of sex, end discrimination, equal participation and decision making (10.2, 5.1, 5.5)

**10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**



Equal pay for equal work, protect female migrants workers, recognize care and domestic work (8.5, 8.8, 5.4)

**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**



Improve sanitation and hygiene with special attention to the needs of women and girls (6.2)

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**



**5 GENDER EQUALITY**



# Impacts

- ▶ Women lack or do not have access to resources due to discriminatory socio-cultural norms and practices and barriers to decision-making
  - Women comprise 43% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries;
  - In sub-Saharan Africa, 59% of women are in informal agricultural employment;
  - Less than 20% of agricultural landholders worldwide are women
  - Only 22% of rural women in low-income countries hold bank accounts
  - Total agricultural outputs in Africa could increase by up to 20% if women's access to agricultural inputs was equal to men's
- ▶ Women disproportionately bear the burden of energy poverty
  - In northern Nigeria, a village woman can spend 60 to 80 times more for energy than a resident of an industrialized country;
  - Women face significant health and safety risks: from household air pollution, carrying heavy fuel loads, exposure to smoke from solid fuels
  - Only 20% of the renewable energy workforce is women

# Impacts

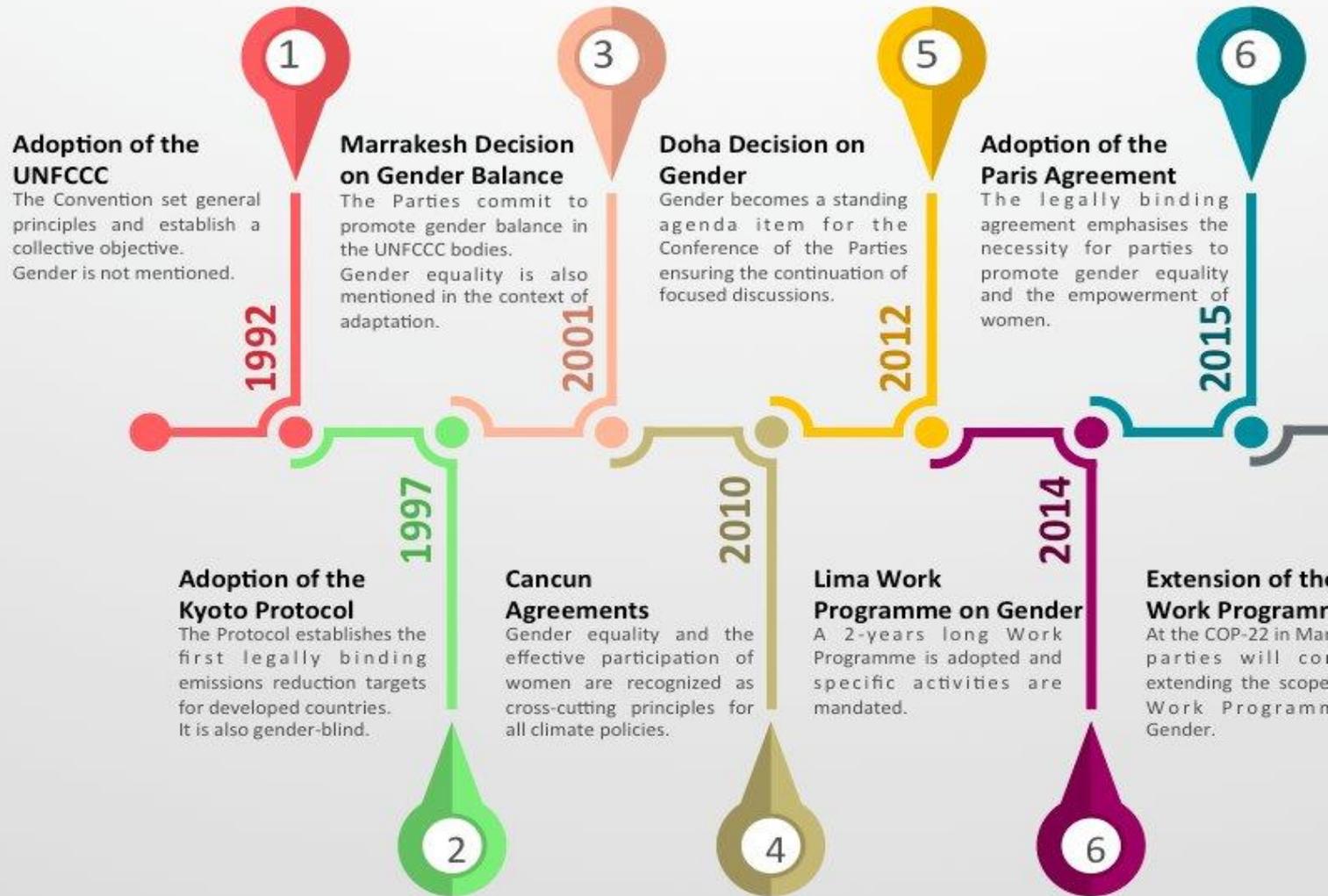
- ▶ In disasters, women and girls are among those severely affected:
  - More than 70% of the fatalities from the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka and Indonesia were women
  - 61% of those killed by Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008, were women and girls
  - The death toll for women and girls following the earthquake in Nepal in 2015 was 55%
  - There is still a lack of data and understanding of the gender dimensions of disaster risk.
    - Sixty-two of 70 reporting countries within the mid-term review of the Hyogo Framework of Action did not collect gender-disaggregated vulnerability and capacity information during the period 2009–2011

## Key Message:

The UNFCCC process is a promising example of successful integration of a gender perspective

... but not without challenges and obstacles

# Integration of Gender in the UN climate negotiations



# Milestones

- ▶ **Cancun Agreements (COP 17):** recognized gender equality and equal participation of women as a cross-cutting principle in climate policy and action
- ▶ **COP 18: Decision on** Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in constituted bodies
  - **Put gender and climate as a standing agenda item of the COP**
  - **Established a reporting mechanism**
- **Lima work programme on gender:** shifted focus from gender balance to systematic integration of gender perspective in climate policies and gender-responsive climate action

# Successes and opportunities

- In-session workshops and technical papers / submissions are opportunities to share experiences and learn from each other;
  - Awareness about the relevance and importance of the issue is much higher than 10 years ago
- Consistently high engagement by Parties, UNFCCC Secretariat, other stakeholders (UN Women, Women and Gender Constituency); and Strong collaboration among actors (Party and non-Party stakeholders implementation)
- Targeted training and funding of participation of women from LDCs, voices now heard in negotiations, providing leadership for others
- Extensive network of non-Party stakeholders who contribute substantively to the process and in implementation e.g. Global Gender and Climate Alliance
- The Financial Mechanisms under the Convention (Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund) have gender policies and action plans in place

# Promising Practices

- Need a diverse group of countries to ‘champion’ the issue
  - Be creative in implementation -- cooperation and collaboration with partners is critical especially with limited funding
  - The role of the secretariat is critical, so are key stakeholders
    - Important to identify relevant entry points in existing processes and workstreams
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# Challenges

- Barriers remain:
  - mainstreaming gender / integrating a gender perspective in UNFCCC thematic areas of work
  - implementing UNFCCC decisions at the national level
- Due to lack of (or refusal to) understand the issue / interlinkages of GE / CC?
- Silos in government ministries or agencies?
- Existing / persisting structural and societal inequalities
- Insufficient funds allocated in building capacity on gender and climate change across all sectors
- Policy and plans not translating into sustained action or transformation at or after implementation

# Thank you

Check out these resources:

Technical paper on guidelines or other tools for integrating gender considerations into climate change-related activities under the Convention

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/tp/02.pdf>

Monitoring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges

<http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2015/indicatorpaper-en-final.pdf?v=1&d=20150921T140212>

UN Women's Flagship Programmes

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/programme-and-technical-assistance#flagship>

A Nexus Approach For The SDGs: Interlinkages between the goals and targets

<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2016doc/interlinkages-sdgs.pdf>